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Establishment of Naval War College Museum

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ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL WAR COLLEGE MUSEUM

The establishment of a Naval War College Museum was authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations on 14 July 1952. By this action the extensive collection of rare books, paintings, models, old correspondence and many works of arts which have been gathered at the War College during past years was recognized as an important part of the Navy's historical record.

Since the Naval War College was established, in 1884, the collection of Museum items has constantly grown with the addition of gifts made by Naval Officers and their families, and by prominent civilians interested in Naval affairs. These include, to mention only a few, the Mahan and Luce book collections, the Harold Seton collection of old Photographs, many rare manuscripts and first editions, portraits and busts of past War College Presidents and other famous naval officers, and recent donations by Mr. Dudley Yard of California of his large collection of engravings, and by Admiral Kirk and Mrs. Goodrich of the Goodrich book collection.

It is expected that the War College Museum will eventually be assigned spaces where the entire collection may be appropriately exhibited as a unit. At the present time there is a museum section in the Mahan Library and other items are on exhibit throughout the War College buildings.

Additional gifts of items of museum value which are of interest in War College history or the history of the Navy as a whole will be welcomed to the Naval War College collection. Such items as the following are desired:

Pictures, paintings, portraits, and busts of important naval subjects, and persons.

Rare or unusual ship models.

Rare books and manuscripts, particularly those on naval subjects.

All works of art which are of significance in War College or naval history.

It is hoped that this growing collection will continue to bring together many of the Navy's art treasures, and that it will continue to serve and inspire the future officers who attend the Naval War College.

Readers who may have access to suitable material are requested to write the President, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.